



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Butte Valley Fire Safe Council Fuel Reduction		
PROJECT LOCATION	The project is located on the west and north sides of Butte Valley in northern California. The Schoolhouse and Andrews Road areas are approximately 7 miles northwest of Macdoel, CA and the Pleasant Valley area is approximately 2 miles northwest of Dorris, CA along the Oregon border. Legal Description: Pleasant Valley – T48N, R1W, Sec. 15, 16, and 22; Andrews Road area – T47N, 2W, Sec. 2, 11, 14, and 23; Schoolhouse area – T46N, R2W, Sec. 6, and T47N, 2W, Sec. 20, 29, 31, and 32	COUNTY	Siskiyou
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Giselle Nova		
ADDRESS	Nova-Vita Natural Resource Management 206 Shasta Avenue, Mount Shasta, CA 96067	PHONE	530-926-2089

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project consists of reducing roadside vegetation and improving community escape routes in the Pleasant Valley subdivision, the properties access from Andrews Road, and the properties along Schoolhouse Road and the Meiss Lake-Sam's Neck Road.

The project area is relatively flat to moderately sloped (2 – 40%) with a mixture of brush dominated landscapes, juniper stands, and moderately dense mixed conifer stands, with pockets and individual oaks.

The project will use mastication in the Andrews Road and the eastern $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Pleasant Valley areas. The rest of the Pleasant Valley area and approximately half of the Schoolhouse area will use hand crews to cut and pile the vegetation, with the piles being burned when permitted. The remainder of the Schoolhouse area will be hand cut and chipped back onto the area. Residual trees will be pruned to a height of 8 – 10 feet, but not more than 50% of the crown may be removed. All mature trees will be retained. Trees greater than 10" dbh will not be removed unless they are a hazard to the road or personnel. The project area will be fully stocked upon completion of the project. No healthy, mature, scenic trees will be removed.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 §15304 (e) Minor Alterations to Land
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

Public Resources Code, Division 13, Chapter 6, Article 19, Section 15304 allows minor alteration of vegetation including fuel management activities to reduce the volume of flammable vegetation, provided the activities do not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant/animal species, or cause significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters. Minimal ground disturbance is expected from most of this project, although mastication of brush and juniper will affect the ground in the Andrews Road and portions of the Pleasant Valley areas. A current CNDDB search was conducted. The project as proposed will not have a negative impact upon any listed species of plant or animal with potential to be found within the project area. A current Archaeological records check was obtained and the project area was surveyed by RPF John Kessler. Several sites were identified and protection measures developed with concurrence from CAL FIRE archaeologist Richard Jenkins. Native American Inquiry letters were sent to Tribal Members on the current contact list. This project as proposed is not expected to result in a significant impact on the environment. Documentation of the environmental review is kept on file at CAL FIRE Siskiyou Unit Headquarters, 1809 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097 – Attention Environmental Coordinator.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Date 11/23/15
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection